

REMARKS

The Office Action dated August 23, 2006, has been received and reviewed.

Claims 1, 3, 5-7, and 9-58 are currently pending and under consideration in the above-referenced application. Each of claims 24-28, and 30-39 stands rejected. Claim 29 is objected to. Claims 1, 3, 5-7, 9-23, and 40-58 are allowed.

Claims 24-39 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

It is also proposed that new claims 59-74 be added and examined. The proposed amendments are made without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter previously recited in prior claims or version thereof of the above-referenced application.

Reconsideration of the above-referenced application is respectfully requested.

Claim Amendments

It was indicated in the Office Action of October 19, 2005, that the version of claim 10 that was under consideration at that time was directed to allowable subject matter.

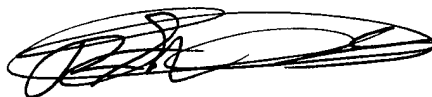
New independent claim 59 includes all the limitations of the then-allowable version of claim 10. New claims 60-74 depend from new independent claim 59.

As the proposed amendments merely involve placing allowable claims in independent form, it is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added and, further, that each of claims 24-27, 30-39, and 59-74 is in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that each of claims 1, 3, 5-7, 9-23, and 40-74 is allowable. An early notice of the allowability of each of these claims is respectfully solicited, as is an indication that the above-referenced application has been passed for issuance. If any issues preventing allowance of the above-referenced application remain which might be resolved by way of a telephone conference, the Office is kindly invited to contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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